



STATE OF IOWA

GOVERNOR TERRY E. BRANSTAD
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR KIM REYNOLDS

IOWA COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
RICHARD GOEBEL, CHAIR

IOWA VETERANS TRUST FUND CALENDAR YEAR 2014 REPORT

Per Iowa Code Chapter 35A.13
Annual Report to the Iowa General Assembly
January 15, 2015

OVERVIEW OF THE IOWA VETERANS TRUST FUND

This report fulfills the requirements of Iowa Code 35A.13, section 9:

*The commission shall submit an annual report to the general assembly by January 15 of each year concerning the veterans trust fund created by this section. The annual report shall include financial information concerning the moneys in the trust fund and shall also include information on the number, amount, and type of expenditures, if any, from the fund during the prior **calendar year** for the purposes described in subsection 7.*

Veterans must meet specific income and asset guidelines to qualify for Trust Fund assistance. Initially, the veteran and their family must have less than \$15,000 in liquid assets and have a household income below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG). Some areas of assistance have a lower qualifying asset level. This is to prevent over utilization of the fund and to ensure that the veteran has either contributed some of their assets to their situation, or are truly in need.

Some veterans are only eligible for one category of assistance, such as unemployment assistance, while other applicants apply for and are eligible for multiple areas of assistance based on their needs. For example, a veteran requesting housing repair could also qualify for dental assistance. Applications for assistance may be deferred because the veteran has not provided sufficient evidence to warrant approval or denial, but have indicated they will provide the needed eligibility evidence.

The Iowa General Assembly has determined areas of eligible expenditures for Iowa veterans:

- Travel expenses for service-related medical care
- Unemployment or underemployment assistance due to service-related causes
- Job training or tuition assistance
- Assistance with vision, hearing, dental care, durable medical equipment, and prescription drugs
- Counseling and substance abuse services
- Emergency vehicle and housing repair
- Transitional housing in an emergency
- Emergency room and ambulance transportation assistance
- Funding to determine whether a deceased veteran is the father or mother of a child
- Funding for family support groups
- Grants for providing honor guard services at veteran's funerals
- Matching funds to veterans service organizations to provide for accredited veteran service officers

SEE IOWA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE 801, CHAPTER 14 FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON THESE AREAS OF ASSISTANCE.

Trust Fund applications have substantially increased, due in part to the current economic conditions and publicity from the Iowa Lottery. During 2011, the trust Fund interest balance was depleted and a waiting list was implemented. Legislative action in the 2012 session corrected this situation.

During the 2008 Legislative Session, HF 2359 was signed into law. This bill authorized the creation and sale of four new Iowa Lottery tickets to benefit the Iowa Veterans Trust Fund. In early July of 2008 the first scratch-off ticket was introduced and later that month the first pull tab ticket was introduced. First quarter sales met expectations, and in October 2008, \$992,771.80 was deposited into the principle balance of the Trust Fund account. It is anticipated that these tickets will provide between \$2 - \$3 million dollars annually in additional principle revenue.

The following information is provided by the Iowa Lottery:

Lottery Proceeds to Veterans Trust Fund Top \$16 Million

More than \$16 million has been raised to help our state's veterans and their families through the sale of Iowa Lottery tickets since legislation authorizing the initiative was signed into law in 2008.

Lottery tickets dedicated to veterans' causes debuted in July 2008 and have continued to be released each year since. Legislation approved during the 2008 session authorized the Iowa Lottery to create two new instant-scratch games and two additional pull-tab games each year, with all proceeds from the games dedicated to the Iowa Veterans Trust Fund.

"We're reminded every year how much Iowans are committed to veterans' causes," said Lottery CEO Terry Rich. "We're incredibly proud of the consistent revenues we've been able to achieve for the Veterans Trust Fund and we thank our players for their continued support."

The lottery focuses on varying the theme and look of its veterans-benefit tickets to keep a fresh mix of games in the marketplace. Lottery officials had predicted when the concept was initially discussed that veterans-benefit games could raise between \$2 million and \$3 million annually. So far, proceeds from the games have averaged \$2.5 million annually since 2008.



To further call attention to veterans' causes, in January 2014 the lottery teamed up with a well-known Iowa artist to produce a one-of-a-kind motorcycle that was up for grabs in a promotion to support the Veterans Trust Fund. It was the first time that Ray "Bubba" Sorensen II, the artist best known for his annual artwork on the huge "The Freedom Rock"® boulder near Greenfield in western Iowa, painted a motorcycle.

The one-of-a-kind motorcycle from Victory® Motorcycles in Spirit Lake was given away in the lottery's "Veterans Victory" promotion that players entered using nonwinning tickets in the \$1 "Ride to Riches" veterans' instant-scratch game that began sales Jan. 6.

The latest Veterans games include the \$1 "Say Uncle" pull-tab game which began sales on June 16 and the \$3 "15X" scratch game with sales starting July 7 in that game.

All tickets that benefit veterans' causes feature the Veterans Trust Fund logo in their design.

The Iowa Lottery has released a total of 13 scratch and pull-tab games dedicated to the Veterans Trust Fund since the program began in 2008.



Lottery funds are deposited in the Veterans Trust Fund on a quarterly basis. Here are the lottery proceeds raised for the Trust Fund up to and including the most recent quarterly deposit in October 2013:

FY 2009	\$2,783,377
FY 2010	\$2,661,554
FY 2011	\$3,105,371
FY 2012	\$2,719,493
FY 2013	\$2,126,725
FY 2014	\$2,004,919
FY 2015 (through October 2014)	\$1,046,539
TOTAL:	\$16,447,938

<u>Game Name:</u>	<u>Release Date:</u>	<u>Game Type:</u>
All American	July 2008	Pull-tab
Stars & Stripes	July 2008	Instant-scratch
Freedom Rings	January 2009	Instant-scratch
Land Of Liberty	January 2009	Pull-tab
Red White & Blue	July 2009	Pull-tab
The Freedom Rock	July 2009	Instant-scratch
Star Spangled Bucks	January 2010	Pull-tab
Veterans Cash	January 2010	Instant-scratch
Blaze Of Glory	July 2010	Pull-tab
Veterans Hot 7's	July 2010	Instant-scratch
American Pride	December 2010	Pull-tab
Give Me \$20	January 2011	Instant-scratch
Veterans Pride	July 2011	Pull-tab
Veterans Hot \$50	July 2011	Instant-scratch
Veterans Double Doubler	January 2012	Instant-scratch
Bold & Brave	January 2012	Pull-tab
Veterans Silver 6s	June 2012	Instant-scratch
Forever Free	July 2012	Pull-tab
A 10 Hut	January 2013	Instant-scratch
Red White & Moo	July 2013	Instant-scratch
Say Uncle	June 2014	Pull-tab
15X	July 2014	Instant-scratch

DEPOSITS

<i>Calendar Year</i>	<i>Principle Deposits (not spendable)</i>	<i>Deposits</i>
2010		\$3,617,508.43
2011		\$2,976,456.50
2012		\$2,740,769.14
2013		\$2,740,769.14
2014	1/3/2014	\$179,796.42
	4/7/2014	\$747,035.99
	7/1/2014	\$208,357.59
	11/3/2014	\$1,046,539.47
Total		\$2,181,729.47
Current Balance a/o Dec. 30, 2014		\$20,426,811.20

	<u><i>Check Off Deposits</i></u>	
2009		\$56,803.00
2010		\$30,401.50
2011		\$27,724.50
2012		\$29,003.50
2013		\$29,542.50
2014		\$31,429.00
Total		\$204,904.00

<i>Calendar Year</i>	<i>Spendable Interest</i>	<i>Deposits</i>
2010		\$64,086.32
2011		\$28,470.53
2012		\$50,101.34
2013		\$101,600.04
2014	1/6/2014	\$4,815.84
	2/3/2014	\$2,655.40
	3/3/2014	\$1,407.82
	4/7/2014	\$4,748.36
	5/5/2014	\$3,301.93
	6/9/2014	\$7,342.26
	7/1/2014	\$6,118.66
	8/1/2014	\$4,015.23
	9/5/2014	\$1,912.68
	10/3/2014	\$5,845.99
	11/5/2014	\$4,417.37
	12/22/2014	\$7,479.47
Current Interest Deposits a/o Dec.30, 2014		\$54,061.01

EXPENDITURES

Trust Fund expenditures can be separated into three separate categories: (1) Veteran Service Officer grants, (2) Honor Guard reimbursement, and (3) assistance to veterans in need. In April 2009, the Iowa Veterans Commission temporarily suspended several areas of assistance due to lack of funding. After the 2012 legislative action, the Commission was able to reinstate all categories of assistance. (Assistance categories are established in **Iowa Code 35A.13** and rules are further defined in **Iowa Administrative Code 801, Chapter 14**.)

A breakdown of assistance per category is illustrated in the tables below. These areas were temporarily suspended from April 2009 through June 2012 due to lack of funding. A waiting list began in April 2011.

Table 1: CY2010 Expenditures

Assistance Category	Approved area of assistance	Total \$ Spent in 2010
Unemployment	11	\$15,000.00
Housing Repair	11	\$16,281.84
Dental Assistance	40	\$57,439.00
Vehicle Repair	8	\$13,016.56
Education/ Tuition Assistance	0	\$0.00
Emergency Room *	0	\$0.00
Durable Equipment	0	\$0.00
Transitional Housing	1	\$400.00
Hearing	0	\$0.00
DNA testing *	0	\$0.00
Travel Assistance *	0	\$0.00
Vision Assistance	2	\$413.42
Counseling Services *	0	\$0.00
Prescription Drugs *	0	\$0.00
Benefit for the child of a disabled or deceased veteran *	0	\$0.00
	73	\$102,650.82

Table 2: CY2011 Expenditures

Assistance Category	Approved area of assistance	Total \$ Spent in 2011
Unemployment	3	\$6,500.00
Housing Repair	5	\$13,150.00
Dental Assistance	10	\$16,628.00
Vehicle Repair	4	\$5,569.63
Education/ Tuition Assistance *	0	\$0.00
Emergency Room *	0	\$0.00
Durable Equipment *	0	\$0.00
Transitional Housing	0	\$0.00
Hearing	0	\$0.00
DNA testing *	0	\$0.00
Travel Assistance *	0	\$0.00
Vision Assistance	0	\$0.00
Counseling Services *	0	\$0.00
Prescription Drugs *	0	\$0.00
Benefit for the child of a disabled or deceased veteran *	0	\$0.00
	22	\$41,847.63

Table 3: CY2012 Expenditures

Assistance Category	Approved area of assistance	Total \$ Spent in 2012
Unemployment	1	\$3,000.00
Housing Repair	20	\$40,396.63
Dental Assistance	46	\$79,447.27
Vehicle Repair	24	\$28,092.98
Education/ Tuition Assistance	0	\$0.00
Emergency Room	2	\$6,601.99
Durable Equipment	0	\$0.00
Transitional Housing	0	\$0.00
Hearing	0	\$0.00
DNA testing	0	\$0.00
Travel Assistance	0	\$0.00
Vision Assistance	2	\$770.00
Counseling Services	0	\$0.00
Prescription Drugs	0	\$0.00
Benefit for the child of a disabled or deceased veteran	0	\$0.00
	95	\$158,308.87

Table 4: CY2013 Expenditures

Assistance Category	Approved area of assistance	Total \$ Spent in 2013
Unemployment	3	\$5,000.00
Housing Repair	17	\$40,086.19
Dental Assistance	71	\$124,949.72
Vehicle Repair	22	\$26,316.98
Education/ Tuition Assistance	2	\$5,780.92
Emergency Room	0	\$0.00
Durable Equipment	0	\$0.00
Transitional Housing	1	\$1,000.00
Hearing	0	\$0.00
DNA testing	0	\$0.00
Travel Assistance	0	\$0.00
Vision Assistance	1	\$500.00
Counseling Services	0	\$0.00
Prescription Drugs	0	\$0.00
Honor Guard Reimbursement	313	\$170,095.00
Benefit for the child of a disabled or deceased veteran	0	\$0.00
	430	\$373,728.81

Table 5: CY2014 Expenditures

Assistance Category	Approved area of assistance	Total \$ Spent in 2014
Unemployment	8	\$15,000.00
Housing Repair	37	\$89,386.82
Dental Assistance	52	\$100,364.68
Vehicle Repair	51	\$75,831.51
Education/ Tuition Assistance	6	\$13,440.44
Emergency Room	4	\$8,392.97
Durable Equipment	0	\$0.00
Transitional Housing	1	\$1,000.00
Hearing	1	\$2,990.00
DNA testing	0	\$0.00
Travel Assistance	0	\$0.00
Vision Assistance	2	\$908.00
Counseling Services	0	\$0.00
Prescription Drugs	0	\$0.00
Honor Guard Reimbursement	178	\$59,350.00
Benefit for the child of a disabled or deceased veteran	0	\$0.00
	340	\$366,664.42

FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS REPORT:

Richard Goebel, Chair, Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs
gulfwar1@msn.com (563)-599-4888

Robert C. King, Executive Director, Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs
robert.king@iowa.gov (515)-727-3444

Melissa Miller, Administrative Assistant, Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs
missy.miller@iowa.gov (515)-727-3443

**IOWA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
7105 NW 70TH AVENUE, CAMP DODGE BLDG. #3465
JOHNSTON, IA 50131**